



Judicial Council of California
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

455 Golden Gate Avenue • San Francisco, California 94102-3688
Telephone 415-865-4200 • Fax 415-865-4205 • TDD 415-865-4272

MEMORANDUM

ate	Action Requested
March 19, 2009	Please Review
To	Deadline
Court Appointed Counsel Panel Attorneys	N/A
From	Contact
Pat Haggerty	Appellate and Trial Court Services
Assistant Director, Finance Division	415 865-4250
Administrative Office of the Courts	
Subject	
Clarification on Payment of Court-Appointed Counsel Compensation Claims	

By now, you have received the good news that the State Controller's Office (SCO) has processed court appointed counsel (CAC) panel payments for claims that were transmitted to the SCO on or before March 6, 2009. The timing of future payments has still not been determined. We will continue to monitor payment timelines and will keep you informed of any news.

This memo is to clarify information we have on payment of CAC panel claims during the State of California's current fiscal crisis. Since we received information from the SCO on both an official and unofficial basis and that information was not always consistent, we were reluctant to send you any information until it had been confirmed.

We further understand that there has been confusion regarding Small Business Certification. The California Prompt Payment Act applies only to the Executive Branch. The judiciary is not subject to the California Prompt Payment Act, of which Small Business Certification is a part, although we make every reasonable effort to process payments in a timely manner. We

March 19, 2009

Page 2

understand that some of you may have received less than clear information on this issue in discussions with SCO staff.

As you are aware, CAC panel claims have been electronically submitted to the SCO from the AOC for the last few years. This is a project that AOC staff advocated on your behalf with the SCO for over ten years to reduce the turn-around time for panel compensation claims. During this crisis, the AOC has continued to submit CAC panel claims in an electronic format to the SCO in the normal cycle of a few days turn around. The payment delays started toward the end of January 2009 due to the State's shortage of General Fund cash. We requested the SCO to exempt CAC panel claims from state-wide payment delays related to General Fund payments, but unfortunately we were not successful.

In closing, we would like to thank you for your dedication to your clients and your patience during these trying times. We will let you know as soon as we have any new information.